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THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTION IN THE TUNNEL OF NEGUB.

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In a tunnel in the neighborhood of Negub, on the Zab river, Layard (*Nineveh and its Remains*, I. 81, *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 616) found a slab upon which an inscription was engraved. The text has been published by him in his *Inscriptions*, plate 35, but in a very mutilated condition. It would be impossible to make anything out of the inscription if a recent find did not give the necessary material.

Brit. Mus. 81-6-7. 219 (seal of Esarhaddon) contains the following (only concocted¹) genealogy of Esarhaddon :

- 8. Aššûr-âhî-iddin-na, etc.
- 27. apal Sin-âhî-ir-ba, etc.
 apal Šam-ukîn, etc.
- 29. li-ip-li-pi da-ru-u ša Bîl-ib-ni apal
 A-da-si šar mâtu Aššûr ki
- 30. pir'u Pal. Bî. KI (Aššûr) Šû-ku-ru ? ? —
 u-tu ki-šit-ti ša-a-ti.

K. 2801 Aššûr-âhî-iddina
 apal Sin-âhî-irba apal Šam-ukîn, etc.
 lib-lib-bi šarrû-ti ša Bîl-BA (ibni *or* ibuš
 or bani) šar
 mâtu Aššûr ki ki-šit-[ti ša-a-ti] Pal. Bî.
 KI. (Aššûr).

A. H. 82 : 7-14 no number (cylinder of Saosduchinos) .

Šamaš-šum-ukîn....apal Aššûr-âhî-iddina.....TUR. TUR (liplipi) Sin-âhî-irbâ, etc.....lip-pal-pal Šarru-ukîn etc.....šarru-u-ti da-ru-u ša Bîl-bani (sic!) apal A-da-si pir'u Pal. Bî. KI. (Aššûr).

This genealogy was concocted only during the reign of Esarhaddon.¹ It was to give the Sargon dynasty, which had simply usurped the throne, the necessary line of ancestors: for Bîl-bani and Adasi must be looked upon as the ancestors of a dynasty which ruled in primeval times.² A similar statement is never found

¹ See the introduction to my edition of the Sargon inscriptions, which will soon leave the press.

² I hope to speak more fully of this upon another occasion.

before the time of Esarhaddon. This gives us a clew as to who the builder of the tunnel of Negub was, for on the fifth line of the inscription the name A-da-si can be clearly made out. Before that we must read Bîl-BA (= ibni, bani). According to the above it becomes probable that the inscription is the work of Esarhaddon. His name, it is true, is now lost: but at the end we must certainly read apal Sin-âḥi [irbâ], so that there can be no doubt as to the author of the inscription.

I shall now give the transcription and translation of what I have reconstructed from the publication of Layard.

- L. 3. apal Sin-âḥi [irbâ]
 4. Šarru rabû šarru dan-nu šar kiššati
 Šar mâtu Aššûr apal Šarru-ukîn šar
 mâtu Aššûr šakkanak Ka-dingir-KI.
 (Babili) šar I'mî. [Ku. (Sumîri) u Akkadi
 5. ? li-ip-li-[pi] Bîl-BA
 (ibni) apal A-da-si šar mâtu Aššûr
 Ki-šitti [ša-a-ti.
 6. ḥirîtu bu-tuk(?) -ti ša Aššûr
 našir-apli rubû a-lik pa-[na.
 7. iš-]tu ki-rib nâru Zaban îli
 ta-mir-ti âlu Kal-ḥi ušaḥru-u ?

Translation: Esarhaddon...son of Sennacherib, the great, the powerful king, king of the hosts, king of Assur, son of Sargon, king of Assur, suzerain of Babylon, king of Sumir and Accad. (of the) descendants of Bil-ibni, son of Adasi, king of Assur.?

6. A canal and tunnel which Asur-našir-pal, a prince who lived before my time, had caused to be dug from the bed of the Zab to the reservoir of Kalḥi.

The remark of Layard (*loc. cit.*) that the whole intention of the builder was to lead the water of the Zab to Nimrud (Kalḥi) or to the surrounding plain, agrees exactly with the contents of the inscription.